



ACCESS AND PRIVACY OFFICE

Frequently Asked Questions: Public Affairs

Can photographs be taken at public events on the campus?

Yes. When students or employees participate in a public event on the campus there is no expectation of privacy. It is not, therefore, considered to be an unreasonable invasion of an individual's privacy to publish photographs that provide evidence of individual participation at a public event. Nevertheless, the media is expected to conduct itself in a professional manner.

Can the University provide students with identification cards that include photographs and other personal information?

Yes. The identification card is in the custody of the student. The student controls the disclosure of personal information contained on the card so there is no breach of privacy. Students should not be required to relinquish the identification card in order to access university facilities.

Is a verbal consent to use photographs for marketing purposes adequate or should waivers be signed where students are identified or identifiable?

The Act makes no provision for verbal consent. If the program in which the student is enrolled or participating is one where such promotion is a reasonable use of a photograph, then this use should be stated in the disclosure statement provided at the time of collection. (e.g. sports teams, music programs, fine arts programs). If the promotion is not a regular part of the program, specific written consent should be obtained prior to the use of a photograph.

Can the University disclose names of graduates to its Alumni Association?

Students who graduate from the University of Calgary become alumni of the University. Names of graduates are disclosed to the Alumni Association so that it can fulfill its mandate as outlined in the Post Secondary Learning Act. Students are notified of this disclosure when they apply to graduate. Alumni have the ability to have their name removed from mailing lists.

Can the University disclose information regarding the hometown of its graduates to the media?

No. Home address is not considered public information and will not be disclosed without the written consent of the student.

Should media requests for information be treated in a particular manner?

No. However, since the results of the application are likely to be published, External Relations may be informed about what is being released, why material is being withheld and when the release is taking place. This will allow them to be prepared for questions from the media or the public.

Can the University continue to recognize student or employee achievement?

Yes. The University can disclose information about observable circumstances, situations or occurrences including such things as an achievement award, honorary degree or some other recognition that was or could normally be part of a public presentation. If the event or award is not in the public domain, consent should be obtained before publishing or announcing information.

Can elected officials congratulate students on their accomplishments?

Yes. The University should obtain consent before releasing names and addresses of students. Alternatively, elected officials can offer congratulations by including a letter in a grad kit, through the local media, by attending school ceremonies, etc.

Can the media publicize University events?

Yes. The university can continue to determine and approve how the media participates in public events on campus. When students or employees participate in a public event on the campus there is no expectation of privacy.